

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services
OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

March 29, 2010

TO: All CPR Providers

FROM: Tom Rehak, Coordinator of Policy and Programs
Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services

SUBJECT: Physician Signatures on Treatment Plans

We have had several questions regarding if an agency physician must sign the Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR) treatment plan when psychiatric medications are being prescribed by a physician or advance practice nurse not employed by the agency.

The current code of state regulations states that a physician shall approve (sign) the treatment plan, and also states that an advance practice nurse may approve (sign) the plan if they are the person prescribing psychiatric medications. The intent of the rule is that the person prescribing the psychiatric medications should be signing the treatment plan. The intent is also that there shall be coordination of care between the prescribing physician and the treatment team with respect to the treatment plan.

This memorandum shall serve as an interpretive guideline that, effective immediately, in cases where the physician or advance practice nurse prescribing psychiatric medications is not employed by the agency directly or by contract, then an agency physician or APN does not have to sign the treatment plan. However, the treatment team shall attempt to coordinate care with the person prescribing medications and have them sign the treatment plan. In cases where that person refuses to sign the treatment plan, the agency shall note the refusal in a separate progress note in the chart.

Please let me know if you have any questions.